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**BALLARD
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& AssociatesPublic Affairs &
Advisory Consulting

January 25, 2002

Ms. Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530
Fax 202-616-9937
microsoft.att@justice.gov

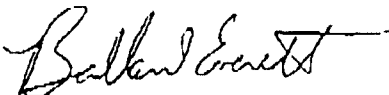
Dear Ms. Hesse:

From the beginning, the federal government's pursuit of Microsoft has been politically inspired and economically unwise. The case was conceived and even subsidized in the beginning by Microsoft's competitors. They sought to win in the courts what they could not win in the market. The government should never have initiated this proceeding.

Now the courts have an opportunity to end this madness. Three years and \$30 million of the taxpayers' money is enough. At a time when terrorists threaten America and we are facing an economic slowdown, our nation, the information technology industry and Microsoft should not be forced to waste more time and money on this case.

It is time to move ahead. Please put an end to this travesty.

Sincerely,



Ballard Everett

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